



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

No. 116

## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon, and was called to order by the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the authority granted by section 2 of S. Con. Res. 22 of the 113th Congress, the majority leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, acting jointly in consultation with the minority leaders of the Senate and House respectively have determined that the public interest warrants the convening of the Senate at this time, notwithstanding the previous orders.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Immortal, invisible God only wise, we look to You today for wisdom as our lawmakers seek to do what is best for our Nation and world. Lord, we admit that our human intellects have limits, for we know not what tomorrow holds, but You do. So guide us, sovereign king. We are pilgrims on planet Earth. We are weak but You are mighty; lead us with Your powerful hand. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 6, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. FRANKEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S.J. Res. 21. An original joint resolution to authorize the limited and specified use of the United States Armed Forces against Syria; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; placed on the calendar.

### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S.J. Res. 21. An original joint resolution to authorize the limited and specified use of the United States Armed Forces against Syria; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; placed on the calendar.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 21

Whereas Syria is in material breach of the laws of war by having employed chemical weapons against its civilian population;

Whereas the abuses of the regime of Bashar al-Assad have included the brutal repression and war upon its own civilian population, resulting in more than 100,000 people killed in the past two years, 2,000,000 Syrian refugees

in neighboring countries, and 4,500,000 internally displaced persons in Syria, creating an unprecedented regional crisis and instability;

Whereas the Assad regime has the largest chemical weapons programs in the region and has demonstrated its capability and willingness to repeatedly use weapons of mass destruction against its own people, including the August 21, 2013, attack in the suburbs of Damascus in which the Assad regime murdered over 1,000 innocent people, including hundreds of children;

Whereas there is clear and compelling evidence of the direct involvement of Assad regime forces and senior officials in the planning, execution, and after-action attempts to cover-up, the August 21, 2013, attack, and hide or destroy evidence of such attack;

Whereas the Arab League has declared with regards to the August 21, 2013, incident to hold the "Syrian regime responsible for this heinous crime";

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1540 (2004), affirmed that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons constitutes a threat to international peace and security;

Whereas in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175), Congress found that Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction threatens the security of the Middle East and the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas the actions and conduct of the Assad regime are in direct contravention of Syria's legal obligations under the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions, and the Protocol to the Hague Convention on the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, done at Geneva June 17, 1925, and also violate the standards set forth in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, done at Paris January 13, 1993;

Whereas Syria's use of weapons of mass destruction and its conduct and actions constitute a grave threat to regional stability, world peace, and the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners;

Whereas the objectives of the United States use of military force in connection with this authorization are to respond to the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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